

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEA-10 AF-10 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 SR-02 ORM-03

AID-20 DRC-01 /209 W

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R 251504Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, NL

SUBJECT: GON REACTION TO ARAB MEASURES AND CHARGES

1. MFA'S DIRECTOR FOR MEA/AF TOLD US THAT GON, IN RESPONSE TO ARAB GOVTS' DENIAL OF OIL TO NETHS AND CHARGES THAT NETHS POLICY IS PRO-ISRAEL, HAD DELIBERATELY BEEN REACTING IN CALM, REASONED MANNER BOTH PUBLICLY AND IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ARAB REPS IN THE HAGUE AND ARAB CAPITALS. IT HAS BEEN EXPRESSING REGRET AND DIS-APPOINTMENT OVER ARAB MEASURES AND CHARGES, AND TRYING TO CONVINCE ARAB GOVT OF EVEN-HANDED DUTCH POLICY RE ME. TO THIS END GON HAD ISSUED STATEMENT REITERATING ITS POSITION THAT A POLITICAL SOL-UTION HAD TO BE BASED ON UNSC RESOLUTION 242 AND THAT A JUST SETT-LEMENT OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS AS ESSENTIAL AS A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF THE TERRORTIAL PROBLEM. IT HAD LIKEWISE UNEQUIV-OCALLY ENDORESED UNSC RESOLUTION 338.

2. DIRECTOR SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT GON WOULD SUCCEED IN ITS ENDEAVOR TO CONVINCE ARABS OF ITS IMPARTIALITY, BUT FELT THAT A CONTENTIOUS DUTCH REACTION, INCLUDING PROTESTS REGARDING ARABS' OIL MEASURES, WOULD ONLY HARDEN ARABS' STAND AND PROVE TO THEM THAT THEY HAD GRABBED NETHS WHERE IT HURTS.

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3. AS OF OCT 24, DIRECTOR SAID, ALGERIA, KUWAIT AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HAD ANNOUNCED MOVES AGAINST OIL SHIPMENTS TO NETHS, IN ADDITION TO IRAQUI NATIONALIZATION OF SHELL INTERESTS, BUT THAT LIBYA (WHICH IS VERY MODEST SUPPLIER) AND SAUDI ARABIA SO FAR HAD NOT DONE SO.

4. COMMENT: MFA STATE SECRETARY KOOIJMANS' INFORMAL REACTION TO EMBASSY WAS THAT THESE ARAB THREATS AND PRESSURE ON THE DUTCH WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, AND THAT THE GON WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS ME POLICY EVEN IF IT MEANT DOING WITHOUT OIL. IN ITS OWN BASIC INTEREST, HOWEVER, GON WILL CONTINUE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONVINCE ARAB STATES THAT ITS POLICY IS EVEN-HANDED.
GOULD

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